

THE DATE OF PUBLICATION OF PURSH'S FLORA AMERICAE SEPTENTRIONALIS.—Frederick Pursh's *Flora Americae septentrionalis; or, a systematic Arrangement and Description of the Plants of North America* (2 vols., octavo; London) is dated "1814" but its citation by Ker-Gawler in *Bot. Mag.* t. 1596 (1 Nov. 1813) has led to the assumption that volume 1 (pp. i-xxxvi, 1-358, pls. 1-16) appeared late in 1813, certainly before November, 1813. Hence the name *Lophiola aurea* Ker-Gawl. (1 Nov. 1813) has been replaced in some works by *L. americana* (Pursh) Wood based on the apparently earlier *Conostylis americana* Pursh. Nevertheless in *Torreyia* 4: 134 (1904) Dr. J. H. Barnhart concluded that it was altogether probable that the two volumes were first offered for sale, together, some time during the month of January, 1814.<sup>1</sup> He reached this conclusion by correlating the mutual citations of Pursh's *Flora* and the *Botanical Magazine* (London). Further evidence confirms this. Evidently Pursh and Sims, the editor of the *Botanical Magazine*, were on terms so friendly that Sims made use of the *Flora* while still in proof. Pursh's *Flora* is cited in the *Botanical Magazine* up to t. 1583 (1 Sept. 1813) as "inedit." and under t. 1592 (1 Nov. 1813) as a "valuable flora, speedily to be published." Pursh himself in his addenda and corrigenda (vol. 2, pp. 744-751) cites *Bot. Mag.* t. 1602 (1 Dec. 1813), indicating that on 1 December, 1813, the printing was not quite completed. Up to 1 January, 1814 (tt. 1606, 1607), Pursh's work is referred to as "*Fl. Bor.-Am.*" This indicates that previous to this date the editor of the *Botanical Magazine* had not seen the published title-page with its use of "septentrionalis" instead of "borealis". From 1 March, 1814, onwards (t. 1625) he cites it correctly as "*Fl. Amer. Sept.*" Thus the published work became available between the preparation of *Bot. Mag.* t. 1607 and t. 1625, i. e. between December, 1813, and February, 1814. Confirmation of the appearance of the two volumes together in January, 1814, is supplied by the London periodical *Monthly Literary Advertiser*, no. 105, p. 2 (10 Jan. 1814) which lists them among new publications. Uncoloured copies cost £1/16/—. Copies with coloured plates cost £2/12/6; they are rare but alone do justice to the artist's skill. The plates were drawn and engraved by William

<sup>1</sup> See also Fernald, *RHODORA* 40: 344 (1938).

Hooker (1779–1832) who was the leading pomological artist of his day and a pupil of Franz Andreas Bauer; he also illustrated Salisbury's *Paradisus Londinensis*.—W. T. STEARN, London, England.

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AN UNUSUAL HABITAT FOR *CUSCUTA COMPACTA*.—*Cuscuta compacta* is familiar to New England botanists as a parasite on shrubs of all kinds in swamps and on pond-shores, chiefly in the regions (*e. g.* eastern Massachusetts and the sand-plains of the Connecticut valley) inhabited by the more austral elements of our flora. It was therefore rather surprising, last year, to find a vigorous growth of it on stems and petioles of Japanese ivy (*Parthenocissus tricuspidata* (Sieb. & Zucc.) Planch.) on the walls of the Gray Herbarium building near the main entrance. The colony continues to flourish this year, without visible harm to the ivy, except that leaves in the immediate vicinity of the *Cuscuta* tend to fall early. This may well be the first record of *C. compacta* as a garden weed.

The nearest stations for the species represented in the Gray Herbarium and that of the New England Botanical Club or recorded in the Flora of the Boston District are: Middlesex Fells, Lexington, Waltham, Wellesley, Milton and Hingham. The minimum distance is four or five miles. How the rather heavy seeds of the *Cuscuta* could get to Cambridge from any of them is a question on which I can throw no light. It seems improbable that the highly sophisticated starlings which constitute the principal avifauna of the Gray Herbarium walls have ever penetrated feral swamps. And though the seeds might have arrived with dried specimens and been discarded with old papers, it is not usual at the Gray Herbarium to throw such rubbish out the front door—and there is no *Cuscuta* at the back.—C. A. WEATHERBY, Gray Herbarium.

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